

# Pesticide

# info

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PESTICIDES



## California Department of Pesticide Regulation

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## Division of Enforcement and Environmental Monitoring

### BRANCHES:

Environmental Monitoring  
916-324-4100

Pest Management  
and Licensing  
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Pesticide Enforcement  
916-445-3920

## Division of Registration and Health Evaluation

916-445-3984

### BRANCHES:

Worker Health and Safety  
916-445-4222

Medical Toxicology  
916-445-4233

Pesticide Registration  
916-445-4400

Division of  
Administrative Services  
916-445-4140

Information Technology  
916-445-4110

Personnel  
916-322-4553

## Don't drop the 'bomb' without safety check

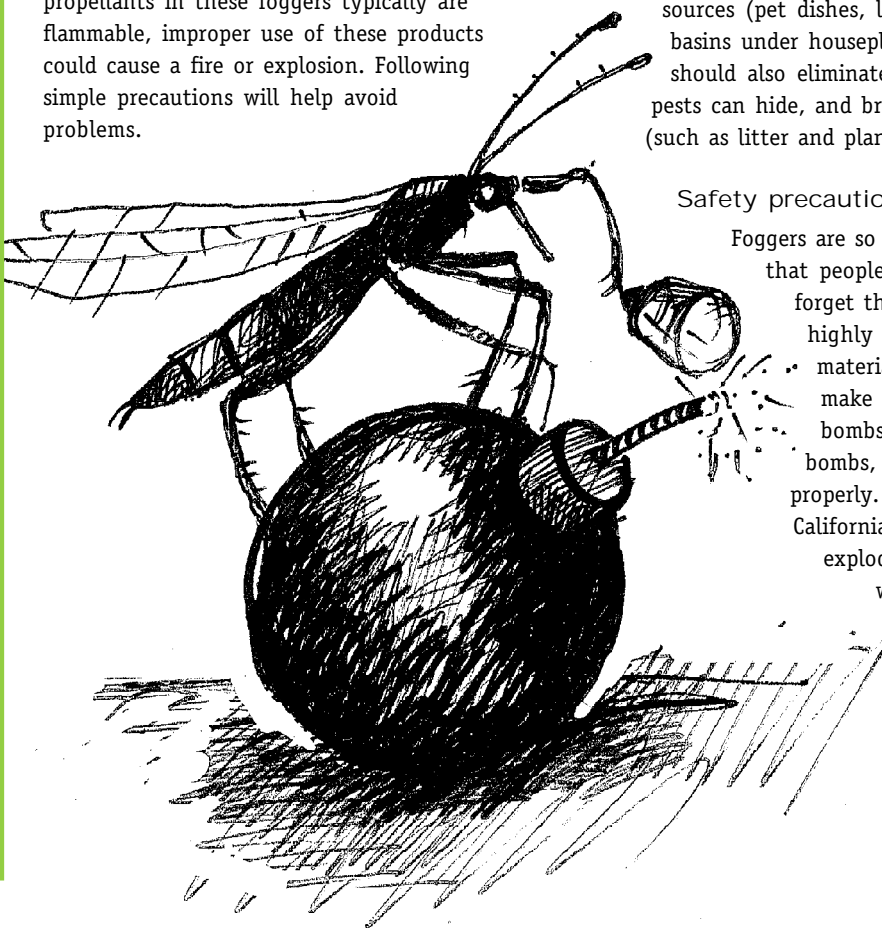
Total release foggers – sometimes called “bug bombs” – are pesticide products that fog an area. These products contain aerosol propellants that quickly release an insecticide fog after you trigger the mechanism. People use foggers in their homes to kill cockroaches, fleas, and other pests. Because the aerosol propellants in these foggers typically are flammable, improper use of these products could cause a fire or explosion. Following simple precautions will help avoid problems.

### Pest prevention comes first

The most effective way to reduce the need for pesticides is to use control methods to reduce or eliminate pest problems. Around the home this might include removing sources of food (such as crumbs on the floor, food in open dishes on the countertop) and water sources (pet dishes, leaky pipes, basins under houseplants). You should also eliminate places where pests can hide, and breeding sites (such as litter and plant debris).

### Safety precautions

Foggers are so simple to use that people sometimes forget they contain highly flammable materials that can make these “bug bombs” literally into bombs, if not used properly. Every year in California, bug bombs explode and catch fire when people ignore simple precautions.



## Use no more pesticide than necessary

When people use too many foggers, flammable vapors can build up to dangerous levels and explode. Read and follow label directions for the recommended number of fogger aerosol cans to use. One 6-ounce or 8-ounce fogger is enough for apartments and other small residences. Generally, using no more than one ounce of product per 1,000 cubic feet of living area should eliminate the chance of fire and still be effective. (To calculate the cubic feet, multiply the height, width, and length of a room, and add the numbers together. For example, an 8-foot by 10-foot by 10-foot room has a volume of 800 cubic feet.)

Don't use more than one fogger per room. Don't use foggers in small, enclosed places, such as closets, cabinets, or under counters or tables. Never use in a room smaller than 5 feet by 5 feet. Instead, allow fog to enter from other rooms. Using too many foggers won't control pests better than using only the amount recommended on the product label. You will be wasting money and worse, putting yourself, your family, and your home at risk. If you think a single fogger won't work well enough, treat your home a second time, or try another, more effective pest control method. You may also wish to talk to the University of California Cooperative Extension office in your county about how to prevent pest infestations, and about nonchemical ways to control cockroaches, fleas, and other pests. You can find the phone number in your local phone book, usually with the local government listings.

## Turn off ALL ignition sources

Accidents are most likely to happen if large amounts of propellant contact an ignition source. This can be an open flame, pilot light, or a spark from running electrical appliances that cycle on and off, such as refrigerators or air conditioners. Call your gas utility if you need assistance with your pilot lights.

## Other important safety measures

You should follow these precautions with all pesticides, including foggers.

- Read label instructions before using the products, and follow them closely.
- Keep the products away from children in a locked cabinet or shed.
- Teach children not to touch pesticides and other household chemicals.
- Keep the telephone number of your area Poison Control Center near your telephone.
- Make sure children, pets, toys, and uncovered food are away from areas you are treating.
- Properly ventilate the area after treatment and before reoccupying it.

## Questions?

If you have questions, call your county agricultural commissioner, who enforces pesticide laws locally. Look for the phone number in your local white pages, under county government headings, or on DPR's Web site <[www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)>, where you can also find more tips and information.

Use no more  
than you need.



Turn off pilot lights and  
other ignition sources.



Read and follow the  
label instructions  
carefully.